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NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



Imagery analysis report

New Possible CSS-3 ICBM Launch Site, China (S)

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Z-20157/80
IAR-A294/80
NOVEMBER 1980
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Recipients of Z-20157/80
New Possible CSS-3 ICBM Site, China (S)
Imagery Analysis Report
Dated October 1980

SUBJECT : Replacement of Entire Report

Please replace the entire previous report with this
issue.

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NEW POSSIBLE CSS-3 ICBM LAUNCH SITE, CHINA (S)

INTRODUCTION

1. (S/D) A new surface-to-surface missile (SSM)-associated facility—possibly a CSS-3 ICBM rollout, erect-to-launch site, Tongdao Possible SSM Launch Site, China []—has been identified under construction at 26-12-10N 109-49-20E. It is approximately 7 kilometers (km) southwest of the CSS-3 silo, Tongdao SSM Launch Site []. Extensive camouflage netting covers most of the narrow, steep-walled valley in which the new site is being constructed.

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2. (S/D) Eight known launch sites are associated with the CSS-3 ICBM system. Two operational elevate-to-launch silos are in central China. These silos are Sundian SSM Launch Site 1 [] and Tongdao. Six rollout, erect-to-launch sites are in west China. Four of these sites at Delingha 1 through 4 [] were in the late stages of construction. The two sites at Da Qaidam [] are externally complete.

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DESCRIPTION

3. (S/D) The new possible site consists of four caves (three probable and one possible) in various stages of construction, a water reservoir, construction support structures, and concrete drainage conduits (Figure 1). A bridge and a new site access road were under construction. A permanent housing and support area is approximately 400 meters southeast of the construction area. A buried communications cable connects the possible launch site to the Tongdao SSM facilities.

4. (S/D) The netting, approximately 70 by 30 meters and approximately 10 meters high, covers most of the valley. The nets are attached to the valley walls and are apparently suspended by a system of cables and poles; the netting extends to the ground in some places. The nets obscure almost the entire construction area, especially several critical areas that may contain features (launch pad, clamshell doors, and so forth) that could confirm the function of this facility.

5. (S/D) The possible launch site was identified in the midstage of construction [] the most current previous imagery of the Tongdao area, construction activity had not yet begun at the caves or the housing and support area (Figure 3). [] no significant changes or construction progress []

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